

INSIDE TODAY

U.S. NEWS

HOUSE HOLD



In this July 26, 2010 file photo, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of Calif. addresses the annual meeting of the National Conference of State Legislatures in Louisville, Ky. By November even more races could become competitive if the political landscape, largely shaped by a sluggish economic recovery, continues to deteriorate for Barack Obama's party in the first midterm elections of his presidency.

Read more on Page A4

SPORTS NEWS

THE BIG APPLEBY



Stuart Appleby of Australia, holds the winners trophy on the 18th green after winning the Greenbrier Classic golf tournament at the Greenbrier in White Sulphur Springs, W.Va., Sunday, Aug. 1, 2010. Appleby hit golf's magic number Sunday, shooting a 59 to win the Greenbrier Classic.

Read more on Back Page



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Floods ravage Pakistan Swat valley that endured Taliban

RIAZ KHAN
SHERIN ZADA

Associated Press Writers

IMAM DHERI, Pakistan (AP) — This village in Pakistan's troubled Swat Valley suffered through years of Taliban rule and months of battles between Islamist militants and the army. But for a man who has seen it all, that's nothing compared to the last three days of flooding. Pakistan's impoverished northwest has been wracked by the worst floods in the country's history — a disaster that has claimed 1,100 lives, wiped out whole villages and left families clinging to the tops of collapsed houses in the hope of being rescued.

The catastrophe also opened up a new front in the U.S. war against Islamist militants, with both groups competing to deliver emergency aid to a region under constant threat of the Taliban.

But for flood victims like Fazal Maula, a 30-year-old resident of Imam Dheri, it doesn't matter who delivers the assistance — he just wants to know how he and his family are going to find their next meal and rebuild their lives.

"We saw destruction during the three years of the Taliban and then during their fight with the army. But the destruction we have seen in the last three days is much more," Maula told an Associated Press reporter who managed to reach the village on a makeshift boat Sunday. The floods destroyed almost everything in Imam Dheri and the surrounding villages, including houses, shops, vehicles and crops. Residents have received no assistance from the government, and those who haven't been able to flee by boat are running out of food, said Maula. The army launched a major offensive against Taliban militants in the Swat Valley last spring, sparking a fight that caused widespread destruction and drove some 2 million people from their homes.

The government has said that rehabilitating the area is key to keeping out the militants, a goal that was already hampered by a shortage of funds and now will be much harder to accomplish because of the devastating floods, which have destroyed more than 14,000 houses and 22 schools in Swat.

Continued on Page 7



Workers vacuum up oil that collected against an absorbent boom in Bay Jimmy on the coast of Louisiana, Saturday, July 31, 2010. As the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reports that most surface oil in the Gulf of Mexico has degraded to a thin sheen and the incoming BP PLC CEO calls for a "scaleback" in cleanup efforts, local officials on the Louisiana coast say they are still finding new patches of heavy oil.

Associated Press

Gulf crews prepare to start plugging well for good

GREG BLUESTEIN

Associated Press Writer

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The only thing keeping millions more gallons (liters) of oil out of the Gulf of Mexico right now is a rush job: an experimental cap that has held for more than two weeks but was never meant to be permanent. As soon as this week, crews will be pumping in some insurance.

Continued on Page 3

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Mullen says US has Iran strike plan, just in case



In this Sunday Aug. 1, 2010, photo released by CBS, Adm. Michael Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, discusses the war in Afghanistan on CBS's "Face The Nation" in Washington. Mullen said the Pentagon is trying to protect Afghans who may be at risk from Taliban retaliation following the publication of tens of thousands of secret war documents, posted on the website WikiLeaks a week ago. He said the U.S. is duty-bound to try to shield informants who were named in the documents.

Associated Press

ANNE GEARAN
AP National Security Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. military has a plan to

attack Iran, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said

Sunday, although he thinks a military strike is probably a bad idea.

Not long after Adm. Mike Mullen's remarks were aired on a Sunday morning television talk show, the deputy chief of Iran's Revolutionary Guard was quoted as saying there would be a strong Iranian response should the U.S. take military action against his country.

Mullen, the highest ranking U.S. military officer, often has warned that a strike on Iran would have serious and unpredictable ripple effects around the Middle East. At the same time, Mullen said the risk of Iran's developing a nuclear weapon is unacceptable, although he would not say which risk he thinks is worse.

"I think the military options have been on the table and remain on the table," Mullen said on "Meet the Press" on NBC. "It's one of the options that the president has. Again, I

hope we don't get to that, but it's an important option and it's one that's well understood."

The official Iranian news agency IRNA quoted Revolutionary Guard deputy chief Yadollah Javani as saying Sunday that security in the Persian Gulf would be jeopardized "if Americans commit the slightest mistake."

"The Persian Gulf is a strategic region. If the security of this region is endangered, they will suffer losses too and our response will be firm," Javani said.

Iran repeatedly has threatened to target the heart of Tel Aviv, the second-largest city in Israel, should the U.S. or Israel take military action against it. The U.S. and Iran are at odds over the goals of Iran's nuclear program. Iran contends that it's aimed at peaceful uses of nuclear energy while the U.S. claims Iran is gearing up to create a nuclear weapon. □





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GULF COAST

Continued from Front Page

Engineers are preparing to launch a so-called static kill as early as Monday evening, shoving mud and perhaps cement into the blown-out well to make it easier to plug the gusher up forever and end the Summer of the Spill.

The effort carries no certainty, and BP PLC engineers still plan to follow it up days later by sending a stream of mud and cement into the bottom of the mile-deep underground reservoir through a relief well they've been digging for months.

But the oil giant's engineers and petroleum experts say it's the clearest path yet to choke the blown-out well and make it even easier for the crews drilling the relief well to ensure oil can never again erupt from the deep-sea well, which has spewed as much as 184 million gallons since the rig connected to it blew up in April and killed 11 workers. The developments have the makings for an interesting week.

"It could be the beginning of the end," said Darryl Bourgoyne, director of Petroleum Engineering Research Lab at Louisiana State University.

When it begins, crews will slowly pump heavy mud through lines installed last month straight down the throat of the leaky well. If the mud forces the oil back into the massive underground reservoir and scientists are confident the pressure remains stable, then engineers can pump in fresh cement to seal it.

"The only thing that separates the oil from the sea now is the valve. This puts thousands of feet of mud and cement in between," said Eric Smith, associate director of the Tulane Energy Institute. "The idea is to have as many barriers as possible between the ocean and the reservoir. We're adding an extra level of safety."

Officials may then begin the process of choking the underground reservoir feeding the well by pumping mud and then cement down an 18,000-foot (5,485-meter) relief well. BP officials have long said the

process is the only sure way to choke the well for good — plugging up the source of the oil, not just its route to the sea.

No oil has leaked from the busted well since engineers were able to fix a tightly fitting cap over its outlet two weeks ago, and boats skimming the oil and spraying subsea dispersant have been able to contain some of the spill.

But critics have raised questions about the long-term effects of the dispersant on sea life, and congressional investigators said Saturday that the Coast Guard routinely approved BP requests to use thousands of gallons of chemicals a day despite a federal directive to cut its use. Retired Coast Guard Adm. Thad Allen said Sunday that federal regulators did not ignore environmental guidelines, but that some field commanders were given the authority to allow more dispersants to be used on a case-by-case basis.

BP's engineers, meanwhile, focus their time on their latest bid to stymie the oil for good. If the static kill attempt sounds familiar, that's because it is. The company tried a similar process, called a top kill, to choke the well with mud in May. It failed partly because the mud couldn't overcome the flow of the oil.

There's reason to hope this time will be different. For one, the oil is no longer freely flowing from the well, thanks to the temporary cap that has contained the out-of-control gusher for two weeks. That means that engineers won't have to pump in mud with as much force, said Kent Wells, a BP senior vice president.

There's always the risk that the pressure exerted by the mud will rupture the casing holding in the oil and potentially cause an even greater mess, but experts say it's very unlikely. "I can't imagine it failing. It's holding pressure and there's no indication of any loss of fluid from the well," Smith said. "It's a vanishingly small risk of failure."

The whole procedure is still set to be completed by late August despite a brief evacuation for Tropical Storm



Workers collect oiled absorbent boom in Bay Jimmy on the coast of Louisiana, Saturday, July 31, 2010. As the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reports that most surface oil in the Gulf of Mexico has degraded to a thin sheen and the incoming BP PLC CEO calls for a "scaleback" in cleanup efforts, local officials on the Louisiana coast say they are still finding new patches of heavy oil.

Associated Press

Bonnie last week. And federal officials are downplaying its importance in case of a failure. Allen, the government's point man on the recovery effort,

said Sunday that "static kill is not the end all, be all." BP has had more than its share of failures experimenting with other ambitious efforts. □

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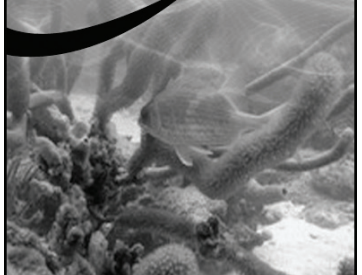
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Republicans look to deny Democrats' House majority



In this Feb. 11, 2010, file photo Rep. Chris Van Hollen, D-Md., right, speaks during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington. At left is Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y.

Associated Press

LIZ SIDOTI

AP National Political Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — No fewer than 65 House seats across the country — an overwhelming majority held by Democrats — are at risk of changing political hands this fall, enough to bolster Republican hopes of regaining

power and stoke fears in President Barack Obama's party of losing it.

Even more races from California to New York could become competitive by November as voters look to blame someone for the sluggish economic recovery and take out their frustration

on the Democrats who run the government. As of now, enough seats are in play that Republicans could gain the 39 they need to reclaim the House of Representatives, dealing a blow to Obama's agenda near the midway point in his term. Primary outcomes and national polls show a restless electorate and energized Republicans. Independents who propelled the Democrats to power in 2006 and 2008 in scores of swing districts are leaning toward the Republicans, expressing concerns about excessive spending, government overreach and the spiraling national debt.

Every part of the country features close House contests. At least six are in Pennsylvania and at least five in Ohio. Three apiece or more are in Arizona, Indiana, Florida and Illinois. New Hampshire has two, as does Arkansas.

Democrats say 70 seats at most are up for grabs; Republicans say the number is closer to 80. In interviews with The Associated Press, lawmakers and party officials from both sides agree that at least 65 of the 435 races are hotly contested — and Democrats are on defense in most.

Democrats just reserved nearly \$50 million in TV advertising time for the fall in 60 districts,

mostly to protect seats held by their own members.

"Republicans are on offense and Democrats are running for cover," said House Republican leader John Boehner of Ohio. "The Democrats are running from their own record."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and other party leaders insist they will hold onto the House. Democrats are counting on their money advantage to stem the losses. The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee has nearly \$17 million more available than the National Republican Congressional Committee to spend this fall. And most of the Democrats' threatened incumbents have a 2-to-1 cash advantage over their Republican challengers.

Rep. Chris Van Hollen, chairman of the Democratic House campaign effort, said his party is confident it will retain its majority. Still, he said keeping such a comfortable majority will be difficult. The current breakdown is 255 Democrats, 178 Republicans and two vacancies. One of those is a Republican-held seat in Indiana; the other is a New York seat that likely will end up in Republican hands.

"We've won 55 seats over the last two cycles, and we hold virtually every swing seat in

the country. That's what makes it a very challenging cycle but that being said we will win the majority," said Van Hollen.

In 1994, the first midterm election for Democratic President Bill Clinton, the party was stunned as Republicans swept to power, capturing the House after 40 years. Van Hollen said that unlike 1994, Democrats knew from the moment Obama got elected that they would face a difficult 2010 election because they won seats in a slew of conservative districts.

In fact, dozens of Democrats were elected in 2006 and 2008 in swing-voting districts in a wave that booted Republicans. Now that the political landscape is tilting toward the Republicans, most of those freshmen and sophomores are vulnerable.

Among the top Republican targets in districts the party's presidential nominee John McCain won two years ago are Democratic Reps. Betsey Markey of Colorado, Tom Perriello of Virginia and Walter Minnick of Idaho.

Also, given the anti-Washington strain coursing through a recession-weary electorate, some of the most senior Democrats who long have held conservative districts also are at risk. □



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Former VP Cheney remains hospitalized after heart surgery



WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Vice President Dick Cheney is still in the hospital after heart surgery in early July.

Daughter Liz Cheney says her 69-year-old dad is out of intensive care and hopes to return home this week. She tells "Fox News Sunday" that he's already planning trips for fly fishing and hunting later this year.

Dick Cheney has had five heart attacks since he was 37. In his recent surgery at a northern Virginia hospital, Cheney had a small pump installed to help his heart work.

After the operation, Cheney said in a statement that he was entering a new phase of treatment for what he called "increasing congestive heart failure." □

In this Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2009, former Vice President Dick Cheney speaks at the Center For Security Policy dinner at Union Station in Washington.

Associated Press

2 U.S. inmates still at large; 1 caught in Colorado

PHOENIX (AP) — The search continued Sunday for two convicted murderers who escaped from a private prison in northwest Arizona, while a third escaped convict was back behind bars following an early-morning shootout with police in western Colorado. Police believe the two who remain at large are still in Arizona.

Early Sunday, a police officer spotted Daniel Renwick, 36, in a brown sport utility vehicle in Colorado some 670 miles from the medium-security Arizona State Prison, said Charles Ryan, director of the Arizona Department of Corrections.

The officer pursued Renwick, gunshots were exchanged, and the convict was eventually taken into custody without anyone being injured, Ryan said. Renwick had been serving a 22-year sentence for second-degree murder when he and the other two inmates escaped Friday evening by cutting a hole in the prison's perimeter fence. The men then kidnapped two semi-truck drivers at gunpoint and used the big rig to flee, authorities said. Police said the two men who

remain at large — Tracy Province, 42, and John McCluskey, 45 — should be considered dangerous. Province was serving a life sentence for murder and robbery, and McCluskey was serving 15 years for second-degree murder, aggravated assault and discharge of a firearm.

The men are believed to be traveling with a woman suspected of helping in the escape, 44-year-old Casslyn Mae Welch.

"The information from law enforcement suggests they are still in Arizona, and there's an all-points bulletin out for these people," Ryan said.

Authorities believe the three are in a silver, four-door Volkswagen Jetta with the Arizona license plate 334 VAN. Authorities said one of the escaped convicts bought the car Saturday in west Phoenix. Police believe he may have presented a phony ID during what apparently was a cash transaction.

According to police Sgt. James Jackson, at about 5 a.m. local time Saturday, the group kidnapped two drivers of a semi-truck in Kingman and forced them



In this combination of undated photos provided by the Mohave County Sheriff's Office, Tracy Province, left, John McCluskey, center, Daniel Renwick are shown. The three inmates, all convicted of murder, escaped from a northwest Arizona prison on Friday, July 30, 2010. The men are considered armed and dangerous.

at gunpoint to drive two hours east to Flagstaff.

The group left the drivers, unharmed, in the truck at a stop just off Interstate 40 and then fled. Police spent much of Saturday using helicopters and dogs to search for the men.

Authorities urged anyone with information to use caution and call police immediately.

Ryan said Sunday the escape is under investigation.

"We have great concerns that there was laxness on the part of security staff at this private prison, but I'm going to allow the investigation to run its course," said Ryan, who plans to meet with prison officials in the next day or two. □

Associated Press



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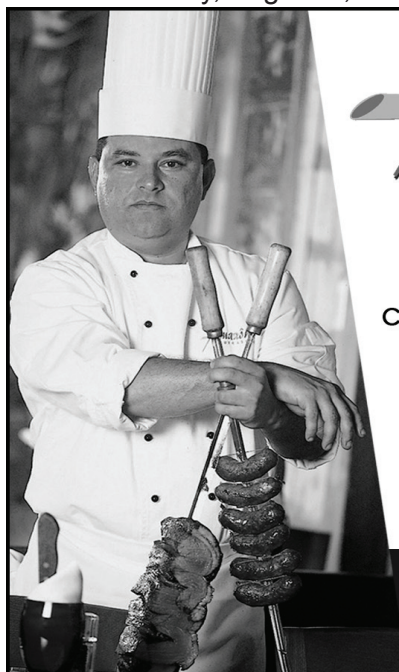
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Dutch become 1st NATO member to quit Afghanistan



Afghan police stand by the wreckage of a mini bus that was hit by a roadside bomb in Maiwand district outside Kandahar city, south of Kabul, Afghanistan, Sunday, Aug. 1, 2010. Afghan officials said six of those on board were killed.

Associated Press

ROBERT H. REID

Associated Press Writer

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — The Netherlands became the first NATO country to end its combat mission in Afghanistan, drawing the curtain Sunday on a four-year operation that was deeply unpopular at home and even brought down a Dutch government.

The departure of the small force of nearly 1,900 Dutch troops is not expected to affect conditions on the ground. But it is politically significant because it comes at a time of rising casualties and growing doubts about the war in NATO capitals, even as allied troops are beginning what could be the decisive campaign of the war.

Canada has announced it will withdraw its 2,700 troops in 2011 and Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski has promised to pull out his country's 2,600 soldiers the year after.

That is likely to put pressure on other European governments such as Germany and Britain to scale back their forces, adding to the burden shouldered by the United States, which expects to have 100,000 troops here by the end of next month.

President Barack Obama has pledged to begin withdrawing American troops starting in July 2011. But Defense Secretary Robert Gates told ABC's "This Week" broadcast Sunday that only a small number of troops would leave in the initial stage.

The end of the Dutch mission took place amid bad news from Afghanistan — including rising casualties and uncertainty over a strategy that relies heavily on winning Afghan public support through improved security and a better performance by Afghanistan's corrupt and ineffectual government.

July was the deadliest month of the nearly 9-year war for

U.S. forces with 66 deaths. U.S. commanders have warned of more losses ahead as the NATO-led force ramps up operations in longtime Taliban strongholds in the southern provinces of Kandahar and Helmand, which accounted for most of last month's American deaths. Two more international service members were killed Sunday in fighting in the south, NATO said without specifying nationalities.

The Dutch departure was sealed after Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende's government collapsed earlier this year over disagreement among coalition members on whether to keep troops in Afghanistan longer. His Christian Democrat party suffered heavy losses at parliamentary elections in June.

Twenty-four Dutch soldiers have died in Afghanistan since the mission began in 2006. Most of the Dutch soldiers were based in the central province of Uruzgan, where they will be replaced by soldiers from the U.S., Australia, Slovakia and Singapore.

The Dutch pioneered a strategy they called "3D" — defense, diplomacy and development — that involved fighting the Taliban while at the same time building close contacts with local tribal elders and setting up numerous development projects.

Dutch troops, some of them riding bicycles, mingled closely with the local population and often did not wear helmets while walking around towns and villages as

a way of winning the trust of wary local tribes.

"The international community and NATO are helping Afghanistan to stand on its own legs so the country can defend itself against extremists who want to use it as a breeding ground for global terrorism," Foreign Minister Maxime Verhagen said in a message to Dutch troops.

NATO spokesman Brig. Gen. Josef Blotz played down the significance of the Dutch move, saying it did not signal a weakening of coalition resolve.

"The overall force posture of (NATO) and of the Afghan security forces is increasing," Blotz told reporters. He noted the surge of mostly U.S. forces that have recently taken control of key areas in Helmand and Kandahar provinces from British and Canadian forces.

The American move into those areas is part of a bid to bolster security in Kandahar city, the biggest urban center in the south and the Taliban's former headquarters. The U.S. move into areas around Kandahar was largely responsible for the spike in casualties over the past two months.

An escalation in fighting is likely to lead to a rise in civilian casualties, undermining support for the coalition among ordinary Afghans. A minibus full of civilians struck a roadside bomb in southern Afghanistan early Sunday, and Afghan officials said six of those on board were killed. At least 270 civilians were killed in the fighting in July,

and nearly 600 wounded — a 29 percent increase in civilian casualties over the previous month, according to Interior Ministry spokesman Zemer Bashary. U.N. figures show that the Taliban are responsible for most civilian deaths through suicide attacks and roadside bombs. Nevertheless, many Afghans still blame the coalition, arguing that without foreign troops, the Taliban would have little reason to mount attacks.

More than 200 Afghans marched through Kabul on Sunday to protest the alleged deaths of 52 civilians in a NATO rocket attack in the south. NATO has repeatedly disputed the allegations of civilian deaths, and Blotz said Sunday that a joint assessment team has only confirmed that between one and three civilians may have died in the July 23 attack in the Sangin district of Helmand province.

Protesters carried photos of children allegedly killed or wounded in the missile strike and shouted "Death to America! Death to NATO!"

"We should not tolerate such attacks. The Americans are invaders who have occupied our country in the name of fighting terrorism," said 22-year-old Ahmad Jawed, a university student.

He said the Afghan government was equally to blame for failing to exert control over NATO troops.

"We don't have a strong enough government to protect the rights of the Afghan people," Jawed said. □

SWAT VALLEY

Continued from Front Page

The U.S. stepped in to help the government Sunday, promising \$10 million in emergency aid. The high-profile gesture comes at a time when the Obama administration is trying to dampen anti-American sentiment in Pakistan and enlist the country's support to turn around the Afghan war. The U.S. also provided rescue boats, water filtration units, prefabricated steel bridges and thousands of packaged meals that Pakistani soldiers tossed from helicopters as flood victims scrambled to catch them.

"This is much needed stuff in the flood-affected areas and we need more of it from the international community," said Latifur Rehman, a disaster management official in Khyber-Pakhtoonkhwa, the northwest province ravaged by the floods.

The U.S. provided similar emergency assistance after Pakistan experienced a catastrophic earthquake

in 2005 that killed nearly 80,000 people. The aid briefly increased support for the U.S. in a country where anti-American sentiment is pervasive.

But feelings have since shifted, and only 17 percent of Pakistanis now have a favorable view of the U.S., according to a recent poll by the Pew Research Center. Conducted in April 2010, the survey has a margin of error of three percentage points.

The U.S. could be hoping to get a similar popularity boost from the emergency flood assistance. But like the earthquake relief effort, the U.S. must compete with aid groups run by Islamist militants who also use assistance to increase their support.

Representatives from a charity allegedly linked to the Lashkar-e-Taiba militant group distributed food and offered medical services on Sunday to victims in the town of Charsada, one of the areas hit hardest by the floods.

"We are reaching people at

their doorsteps and in the streets, especially women and children who are stuck in their homes," said an activist with the Falah-e-Insaniyat charity who would identify himself only by his first name, Saqib.

With suspected ties to al-Qaida, Lashkar-e-Taiba has been blamed for the 2008 attacks in Mumbai, India, that killed 166 people, and the U.S. military has said the group has stepped up activity in Afghanistan as well.

Pakistani militant groups often rail against government ineffectiveness as a way to build support, a message likely to resonate with many in the northwest who have criticized the official flood response.

"My son has drowned, but I don't see the government taking care of us," said Sehar Ali Shah, standing in front of his half-submerged house in the city of Nowshera.

Some parents sought to save their children by carrying them on their shoulders as they waded through chest-high water fouled by the rotting



carcasses of water buffalo.

Another flood victim, Hakimullah Khan, criticized the government for failing to help him find his wife and three missing children, who disappeared as water engulfed Charsada.

"The flood has devastated us all, and I don't know where my family has gone," said Khan. "Water is all around, and there is no help in sight." The military has deployed 30,000 army troops who helped rescue more than 20,000 people, said Adnan Khan, a government disaster management official in Khyber-Pakhtoonkhwa.

However, rescuers have been unable to access certain areas and officials fear the death toll could increase beyond 1,100, he said.

More than 27,000 people in the province remained trapped and authorities said 43 military helicopters and 100 boats had been deployed to try to save them.

The rescue effort was aided by a slackening of the monsoon rains on Sunday. As floodwaters started to recede, officials began to understand the full scale of the disaster, which the U.N. estimated affected a million people nationwide. □




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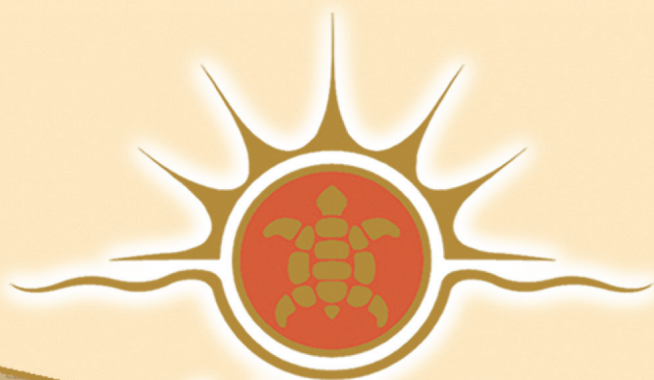


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Hundreds of new wildfires break out in Russia



A local man takes photos on his phone as a parched forest burns near a suburb of the town of Voronezh some 500 km south of Moscow, Sunday, Aug. 1, 2010. Hundreds of new fires broke out Sunday in Russian forests and fields that have been dried to a crisp by drought and record heat.

Associated Press

MIKHAIL METZEL
Associated Press Writer
VORONEZH, Russia (AP) — Hundreds of new fires broke out Sunday in Russian forests and fields that have been dried to a crisp by drought and record heat, but firefighters claimed success in bringing some of the wildfires raging around cities under control. The firefighters got much-needed help from residents desperate to save their homes, who shoveled sand onto the flames and carted water in large plastic bottles. The wildfires that began

threatening much of western Russia last week have killed 28 people and destroyed or damaged 77 towns or villages, the Emergencies Ministry said. Thousands of people have been evacuated from areas in the path of flames, but no deaths have been recorded since late Wednesday. Troops and volunteers have joined tens of thousands of firefighters in combating the fires, which blazed just outside Moscow and in several provinces east and south of the capital.

The region around Voronezh, a city of 850,000 people about 300 miles south of Moscow, has been one of the worst hit. Half of the 300 homes in the village of Maslovka were reduced to cinders. Emergencies Ministry spokeswoman Yelena Chernova said fires in the Voronezh region were under control Sunday and no longer threatened any population centers. But woodlands on the edge of the city, about a mile from some houses, continued to burn. Firefighters sprayed water from hoses and dumped it from the air onto the blaze, while local residents pitched in on the ground. Some 320 new fires broke

out Sunday, but 210 were extinguished, the Emergencies Ministry said, while the total territory ablaze shrank by thousands of acres (hectares) to about 316,000 acres. No homes were damaged by fire during the weekend, it said. Fires have devastated the regions around Nizhny Novgorod, Russia's fifth-largest city, and the city of Ryazan, just southeast of Moscow. They also were moving into regions farther to the east such as Mordovia and Tatarstan.

Smokey air has settled over cities, already baking in the heat, and many residents complain of headaches and intestinal ailments. In Moscow, the smog has come mainly from fires in dried-up peat bogs in outlying regions. The peat, which is high in carbon, can ignite and smolder underground, giving off dangerous fumes.

Much of western and central Russia is suffering through a severe drought, thought to be the worst since 1972, in what has been the hottest summer since record-keeping began 130 years ago. This year's harvest was already in trouble, and the fires have finished off vast fields of golden wheat and other crops. □



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Israel warns Hamas after rocket fire

ARON HELLER

Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel's prime minister issued a stern warning Sunday to Gaza's Hamas rulers after a weekend of rocket attacks from the Palestinian territory on Israeli communities.

Benjamin Netanyahu told his Cabinet that Israel holds the Islamic militant group responsible for the rare flare-up in violence and would retaliate for any attack against its people.

"I see the Hamas as directly responsible for any attack that comes from the Gaza Strip toward the state of Israel and the international community should see it this way as well," Netanyahu said. "Israel reserves the right to defend its citizens and we will continue to use all means to protect the people of Israel and the children of Israel."

The attacks, including a rocket fired Friday at an Israeli city six miles (10 kilometers) from Gaza, caused damage but no injuries. No Palestinian group took responsibility for the attacks.

Israel responded with a series of airstrikes on militant targets in Gaza, including one that killed a senior commander of the Hamas military wing.

Early Monday, a huge blast leveled the house of a Hamas

commander in the Deir el-Balah refugee camp in southern Gaza, wounding at least 32 people, according to Palestinian security officials. They said the blast was the result of an Israeli airstrike, but Israel's military denied that, saying there was no Israeli activity in the area.

The regional Hamas commander, Ala Adnaf, was missing along with another person, and rescue workers were digging through the rubble. The explosion badly damaged 12 nearby houses in the refugee camp, the officials said, speaking on customary condition of anonymity.

Adnaf was known as a bomb maker. Often there are accidental explosions in bomb factories. In the hours before this blast, Palestinian security officials said there were two other explosions elsewhere in Gaza, apparently caused by an intense heat wave detonating chemicals.

Years of rocket fire from Gaza has largely subsided since Israel launched a fierce offensive in the Palestinian territory in December 2008.

The three-week war dramatically reduced the number of rockets hitting Israel, but devastated the densely populated and impoverished Palestinian territory and drew international criticism.

Most of the rocket fire since has been carried out by smaller militant groups that do not necessarily accept Hamas authority. Hamas has largely refrained from launching attacks, apparently because of concerns about Israeli retaliation.

Hamas spokesman Fawzi Barhoum accused Netanyahu of trying to "invent pretexts for new attacks" on Hamas.

"Netanyahu and his government bear all the consequences of this escalation," he said.

The violence came shortly after the Arab League authorized Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to enter into direct peace talks with Israel, a notion that Gaza militants abhor. The league endorsed the idea after President Barack Obama warned Abbas in a letter that U.S.-Palestinian relations might suffer if the Palestinian leader refused to resume direct negotiations.

Hamas' exiled leader, Khaled Mashaal, denounced American demands for direct talks.

"These are dictations. These dictations were done secretly in the past but now they are done publicly," Mashaal said Sunday in Syria. "Arab and Palestinian leaders have no options because the decision was adopted in foreign capitals."



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, center, arrives at the weekly cabinet meeting in his Jerusalem office, Sunday, Aug. 1, 2010.

Associated Press

Negotiations between Abbas, also known as Abu Mazen, and Netanyahu's predecessor, Ehud Olmert, broke off over the Gaza war. Indirect, U.S.-mediated talks were launched in May.

"I think the international community, at least an important part of it, and of course the United States, expects the Palestinian Authority to put aside all the excuses and arguments and all the conditions and get into direct peace talks," Netanyahu said. "I call on Abu Mazen to take a brave decision to start peace talks with Israel."

Abbas insists he will only negotiate if Israel commits to freezing all settlement construction. Palestinians are wary of resuming talks with

Netanyahu without agreeing first on an agenda, a timetable and a framework.

Netanyahu has refused to be pinned down and make concessions ahead of talks. Netanyahu has put in place a partial 10-month settlement freeze in the West Bank that is due to expire in late September.

Israeli President Shimon Peres added his voice Sunday to the growing chorus of calls for direct talks.

"We must begin the direct talks between Israel and the Palestinians as soon as possible. The timing is critical and there is a window of opportunity that cannot be missed," he said after meeting Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo. □

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DiCaprio king of box office for third weekend

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) – Leonardo DiCaprio's dreams thriller "Inception" ruled the North American box office for a third weekend on Sunday,



FILE - In this Aug. 15, 1986 file photo, actress Zsa Zsa Gabor is shown Los Angeles. Doctors plan to let Zsa Zsa Gabor return home Friday, Aug. 6, 2010 about three weeks after the 93-year-old actress was hospitalized with a broken hip.

AP PHOTO

Spokesman: Gabor to go home from hospital Friday

LOS ANGELES – Doctors plan to let Zsa Zsa Gabor return home Friday, about three weeks after the 93-year-old actress was hospitalized with a broken hip.

Gabor's publicist, John Blanchette, said Saturday that she would spend the rest of the week receiving physical therapy.

Gabor's husband, Prince Frederic von Anhalt, told Blanchette that the actress was joking with nurses but that she appeared depressed. He hoped the return home would restore her spirit.

Blanchette says Gabor broke her hip July 17 after her wheel chair tipped over. The Hungarian-born actress' condition began to deteriorate after hip-replacement surgery days later.

Blanchette says von Anhalt bought the actress a \$25,000 hospital bed and was arranging for home care in anticipation of her return. □



Cast member Leonardo DiCaprio attends a news conference to promote the movie "Inception" in Tokyo July 21, 2010.

REUTERS/Toru Hanai

fending off three middling newcomers led by the Steve Carell comedy "Dinner for Schmucks" at No. 2.

"Inception" sold \$27.5 million worth of tickets during the three days beginning Friday, taking its total to \$193.3 million after three weekends, distributor Warner Bros. said. The Time Warner Inc unit said the film remained on track to finish up around the \$300 million mark.

"Dinner for Schmucks" followed with \$23.3 million, in line with expectations but down from the \$25 million start for Carell's previous live-action movie "Date Night" in April.

The opening was "solid," said Don Harris, executive VP for

distribution at Viacom Inc.-owned distributor Paramount Pictures, which partnered on the \$63 million project with closely held producers DreamWorks and Spyglass Entertainment.

"Schmucks," which garnered mixed reviews, stars Carell as a buffoon invited to a party for oddballs hosted by wealthy businessmen who lampoon their idiocy. Paul Rudd co-stars, and Jay Roach of "Austin Powers" fame directs.

Although the film was marketed at men, women liked it better, Harris said. He hoped the film would follow a similar trajectory as the Adam Sandler hit "Grown Ups," which has earned \$150.7 million to date.

"CATS & DOGS" ROADKILL

Honors for the biggest bomb went to the costly Warner Bros. 3D family sequel "Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore," which opened at No. 5 with just \$12.5 million. The Time Warner Inc unit had hoped it would earn more than \$20 million.

"We probably failed to create the same level of interest that we had in the original," said Dan Fellman, the studio's president of domestic distribution.

The 2001 original, "Cats & Dogs," opened to \$22 million in 2001. The sequel had the benefit of premium pricing for 3D engagements as well as higher ticket prices overall.

The project, carrying a reported \$85 million budget, was a joint-venture with Australian media firm Village Roadshow Ltd.

Also new was Universal Pictures' Zac Efron psychological melodrama "Charlie St. Cloud," which opened at No. 6 with \$12.1 million, at the lower end of expectations. The "High School Musical" heartthrob was last in theaters with "17 Again," which opened to \$23 million in April 2009.

The film, which cost a relatively cheap \$44 million to make, played almost

exclusively to Efron's core audience of young women. The General Electric Co unit said it expected strong midweek grosses. Efron's bereaved title character sees his dead younger brother. □



U.S. performer Madonna, during the filming of the movie 'W.E.', which she is directing, in Paris, Saturday July 31, 2010.

(AP Photo/Thibault Camus)

Madonna in Paris to direct her new movie

PARIS – The Material Girl is illuminating the City of Light, where she's shooting her latest film, "W.E." Dressed all in black and heavily accessorized in dark shades, a hat and a patterned scarf, Madonna directed Saturday's shoot in Paris' tony 6th district.

The 51-year-old singer made her directorial debut in 2008 with "Filth and Wisdom," about a Ukrainian cross-dressing punk-rocker.

Madonna is not the only U.S. star to film in the French capital this summer.

Last week, Woody Allen was shooting his "Midnight in Paris" on location near the Pantheon and in a park behind Notre Dame cathedral. The film, starring Owen Wilson, also includes a performance by France's first lady, model-turned-singer Carla Bruni-Sarkozy. □

Singer Al Jarreau discharged from French hospital

MARSEILLE, France – A French cardiologist who's been treating Al Jarreau says the Grammy-award winning singer has been discharged from the hospital, more than a week after he was admitted.

The 70-year-old American singer was placed in intensive care on July 23 after suffering breathing problems in the Alps and was later moved by helicopter to La Timone hospital in Marseille. The incident forced Jarreau to cancel several dates on his European concert tour.

Jean-Louis Bonnet, chief of the cardiology unit at La Timone hospital, said Sunday that Jarreau wants to continue with his tour.

"He wants to return to the stage



FILE - Seven-time Grammy Award winner, Al Jarreau, performs at Festival Jazz des Cinq Continents in Marseille, France, in this file photo dated July 21, 2010. The 70-year old singer Jarreau has been discharged from hospital, it is announced Sunday Aug.1, 2010, after he suffered from breathing problems in the Alps July 23, and was placed in intensive care.

(AP Photo/Claude Paris, File)

and see his fans," Bonnet said, adding that he advised Jarreau not to push himself too hard.

Jarreau has won Grammys in jazz, pop and R&B categories. □



As spending by wealthy weakens, so does economy

By JEANNINE AVERSA,

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — Wealthy Americans aren't spending so freely anymore. And the rest of us are feeling the squeeze. The question is whether the rich will cut back so much as to tip the economy back into recession — or if they will spend at least enough to sustain the recovery.

The answer may not be clear for months. But their cutbacks help explain why the rebound could be stalling. The economy grew at just a 2.4 percent rate in the April-June quarter, the government said Friday, much slower than the 3.7 percent rate for the first quarter.

Economists say overall consumer spending has slowed mainly because the richest 5 percent of Americans — those earning at least \$207,000 — are buying less. They account for about 14 percent of total spending. These shoppers have retrenched as their investment values have sunk and home values have languished.

In addition, the most sweeping tax cuts in a generation are due to expire in January, and lawmakers are divided over whether the government can afford to make any of them permanent as the federal budget deficit continues to balloon. President Barack Obama wants to allow the top rates to increase next year for individuals making more than \$200,000 and couples making more than \$250,000. The wealthy may be keeping some money on the sidelines due to uncertainty over whether or not they will soon face higher taxes.

The Standard & Poor's 500 stock index has tumbled 9.5 percent since its high-water mark in late April. Home values fell 3.2 percent in the



FILE - In this June 1, 2010 file photo, a woman hangs onto her shopping bags while exiting the Neiman Marcus store at Union Square in San Francisco. Economists say consumer spending has slowed mainly because the richest 5 percent of Americans — those earning more than \$207,000 — have cut back. They account for about 14 percent of overall spending.

(AP Photo/Eric Risberg, file)

first quarter, according to the Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller 20-city home price index.

Think of the wealthy as the main engine of the economy: When they buy more, the economy hums. When they cut back, it sputters. The rest of us mainly go along for the ride. Earlier this year, gains in stock portfolios had boosted household wealth. And the rich responded by spending freely. That raised hopes the recovery would strengthen.

No longer. The dizzying plunge on Wall Street in May and June and lingering stock market turbulence have shrunk Americans' wealth. The Dow fell 10 percent for the April-June quarter. The broader Standard & Poor's 500 index dropped 11.9 percent. And

the rich are once again more cautious about spending, economists say.

The affluent went back to tightening their belts in June after months of vigorous showing. Data from MasterCard Advisors' SpendingPulse showed luxury spending fell in June for the first time since November. The decline followed a solid rise in sales revenue earlier in the spring. "It isn't a good omen for the consumer recovery, which cannot exist without the luxury spender," said Mike Niemira, chief economist at the International Council of Shopping Centers.

At the same time, government reports show shoppers as a whole cut back on their spending in both May and June. □

Have jobs become a leading indicator?

By Pedro Nicolaci da Costa

WASHINGTON — Employment, it turns out, may not be such a laggard after all.

The job market, often described as reacting in slow-motion to shifts in the pace of economic growth, may actually be a pretty solid indicator of the United States' prospects.

That means a double-dip U.S. recession cannot yet be completely ruled out, particularly since economists believe Friday's payrolls report for July will show a second straight month of net job losses.

Granted, the decline of 63,000 projected by a Reuters survey will reflect temporary census workers being let go by the government. Still, the 91,000 increase in private sector jobs forecasters expect is paltry, and not enough to keep up with new entrants into the labor force.

"Employment typically lags the business cycle, but that doesn't have to be the case," said Karen Dynan, a former Federal Reserve economist now at the Brookings Institution. "The loss of momentum in labor markets in recent months was one of the signals that we weren't entering a self-sustaining recovery."

U.S. gross domestic product, the broadest gauge of economic activity, grew at a 2.4 percent annual rate in the second quarter, far weaker than the upwardly revised 3.7 percent pace in the first three months of the year.

Uncertainty about a further slowdown in the second half of the year is making employers reluctant to hire. That helps explain why the incipient recovery has thus far failed to make much headway in replacing the more than 8 million jobs lost during the recession of 2008-2009.

The unemployment rate is likely to rise again, to 9.6 percent from 9.5 percent, according to the Reuters poll, having peaked at 10.1 percent late last year. Nearly half the country's jobless have been without work for six months or more.

America's jobs quagmire has big implications for other major economies around the world.

With Europeans struggling to keep their heads above water amid lingering anxiety about high levels of sovereign debt, a sputtering global economy needs at least one engine firing on all cylinders. Apart from China, which continues to expand rapidly though at a bit more restrained pace, the United States is pretty much the only country big enough to pull things along.

Brazil, which struggled with subpar rates of expansion for many years, is registering a steep growth spurt of about 9 percent. But at just over a tenth the size of the U.S. economy, the South American giant is simply not large enough to carry the world. Japan, for its part, looks to be stumbling anew, with factory output experiencing its sharpest pullback in more than a year during June.

TWO-WAY STREET

Just as global economic growth can feed on itself, so can the many risks posed by volatile financial markets. Europe's debt debacle and worries about its banks may have contributed to the soft patch now facing the United States, which has been marked in part by a tapering off of manufacturing activity.

"There has been concern about how much circumstances in Europe might create a contagion effect," said Dana Johnson, chief economist with Comerica in Dallas. □

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

Taiwan's Tseng wins Women's British Open by 1 shot

SOUTHPORT, England (AP) — Yani Tseng of Taiwan made a 6-foot putt at the last hole Sunday to win the Women's British Open by one stroke after holding off Katherine Hull of Australia.

Hull had reduced her overnight deficit to Tseng from four strokes to one coming down the 18th. But she missed a 20-foot birdie attempt and had to settle for a 70, and Tseng holed her par putt to shoot 73 and total 11-under 277 at Royal Birkdale.

It was the 21-year-old's third title and she won 260,000 pounds (\$408,000) in prize money.

Tseng drove into a bunker on the last hole and was just off the green in three. Hull chipped poorly before her birdie attempt went three foot past the hole and Tseng coolly stepped up to hole the winning putt.

"I was nervous and tired with all the pressure and attention



Taiwan's Yani Tseng, centre, celebrates winning the Women's open golf competition at Royal Birkdale with Christina Kim, right, during the fourth round of the Ricoh Women's British Open at the Royal Birkdale Golf Club, in Southport, England, Sunday Aug. 1, 2010.

out there today," Tseng said. "Katherine played really well and put me under a lot of pressure. It was the toughest win I've had to date. I usually come from behind to win.

I've never won from the front before."

Tseng said multi-major winner Annika Sorenstam sent her a message overnight.

"She said 'I'm very happy to

see you on top, that's where you belong' and wished me good luck for today."

Within three holes at the start of the final round, Hull had trimmed three strokes off Tseng's lead — with birdies at the second and third — while Tseng dropped a stroke at the third. Hull hit a 5-wood to 12ft at the second and holed it, then an 8-iron to 40 feet at the fourth and holed that as well.

Tseng restored her lead to three shots at the short fourth when Hull found a greenside bunker off the tee. Tseng went four ahead again with a birdie at the long sixth, holing from three feet.

Continued on Page 14

Associated Press

Querrey defends Farmers Classic title in Los Angeles



Sam Querrey holds up his trophy after defeating Andy Murray of Great Britain in their final match at the Farmers Classic tennis tournament, Sunday, Aug. 1, 2010, in Los Angeles. Querrey won 5-7, 7-6 (7), 6-3.

Associated Press

BETH HARRIS
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Sam Querrey fended off a match point in the second set and rallied to beat Andy Murray 5-7, 7-6 (2), 6-3 in the Farmers Classic final on Sunday.

Querrey successfully defended the title he won last year in his

hometown, winning four three-set matches during the week. He became the first player to repeat in Los Angeles since Andre Agassi in 2001-02.

"In the second and third sets I played great, some of the best tennis I've played," he said. "It was easier today with everyone behind me."

Earlier, Bob and Mike Bryan won their record 62nd career doubles title on the ATP Tour, the twin brothers defeating American Eric Butorac and Jean-Julien Rojer of Netherlands Antilles 6-7 (6), 6-2, 10-7 tiebreaker.

"It's a flood of emotion," Bob Bryan said. "Never thought we'd be this healthy, this consistent our whole career."

Down a set and match point in the 10th game of the second set, Querrey came up with a combination of big serves and gambling shots to beat Murray, ranked fourth in the world, and collect his fourth title of the year. Only Rafael Nadal has more with five.

Continued on Page 15

Report: Armstrong teammate Li failed drug test



Lance Armstrong of the US exits the team bus to leave for a training ride with his teammates on the rest day of the Tour de France cycling race in Morzine-Avoriaz, France, Monday, July 12, 2010. Armstrong lost precious time as he crashed and got distanced in Sunday's stage and now ranks 39th with more than 13 minutes delay.

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — A Chinese rider on Lance Armstrong's Team RadioShack has been confirmed as testing positive for banned substances, an official newspaper reported Sunday.

Li Fuyu's B sample came back positive for Clenbuterol, an anabolic agent that can be used to reduce body fat, China Daily reported, citing Zhang Bin, secretary-general of the Chinese Cycling Association.

The 32-year-old rider has been suspended since late April, after failing an in-competition test on March 23 at the Dwars Door Vlaanderen in Belgium. Zhang said the rider has denied using

illegal substances but that the suspension remains in effect.

"Now there is no doubt ... No matter what his excuse was, and no matter how prominent he is in China cycling, the result has been confirmed and it is impossible to change," Zhang was quoted as saying. China will send its decision to the International Cycling Union soon, China Daily reported, adding that Li will likely face a two-year ban.

RadioShack has said Li would be fired from the team if his B sample confirmed the positive test.

Li was the first Chinese professional to join a ProTour team in 2007. □

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MOTORSPORT

Biffle wins for injured Roush at Pocono

By DAN GELSTON

AP Sports Writer

LONG POND, Pa. — As he closed in on the finish line, Greg Biffle knew the only person worthy of dedicating this victory to at Pocono Raceway.

"This one's for Jack!" he said over the radio.

Was it ever.

With Jack Roush recovering in the Mayo Clinic, Biffle raced to victory in an often-delayed Sprint Cup race at Pocono Raceway on Sunday to snap a 64-race winless streak and take the checkered flag for his injured team owner.

"I have to tell you, when it got to be five to go, I started thinking about," Biffle said. "I started thinking, this race is meant to be."

Biffle never doubted he would win a Cup race again even as his oh-fer reached nearly two years. He hadn't won since the first two races in the 2008 Chase for the Cup championship. But with Roush in the Mayo Clinic for injuries sustained in a plane crash in Wisconsin, Biffle found Victory Lane.

"We know he's watching," Biffle said. "It's been really tough. We worked so hard."

It was also the first win of the season for both a Ford and Roush Fenway Racing.

Tony Stewart was second and Roush driver Carl Edwards was third. Kevin Harvick and Denny Hamlin, who won the last two Pocono races, rounded out the top five.

Edwards spoke with Roush on Sunday morning and said his boss sounded in good spirits.

"He was Jack," Edwards said. "Don't mess anything up. Don't wreck. He's been through a lot this last week. He really needed that victory. That's pretty cool. I'm sure he's really hard to handle for all those nurses in the hospital."

Roush released a statement calling it a "proud day" for the entire organization.

"They've done a wonderful job and this is just the beginning of the rewards that have resulted from all of their hard work," he said.

Biffle said Roush called him in Victory Lane and the owner said, "he never met somebody that had the will to win like I do."

"I'm glad he thinks of me like that," Biffle said. "No matter how grim the outcome can be, I'll still be digging."

Biffle's crew kept the same car after driving the No. 16 Ford to a season-high third-place finish last week at Indianapolis. That finish put Biffle in 11th place in the points standings and now he's strongly positioned himself with five races for a spot in the 12-driver field for the championship chase. He won Chase races at New Hampshire and Dover in 2008 before falling into this winless drought. Biffle was winless last year for the first full season of his career.

He won't be shut out in back-to-back seasons.

"The whole company needed it," Biffle crew chief Greg Erwin said. "I can't really explain what this means. I know (Roush) is with us. This is a brand new car at Indianapolis and we brought it here because we liked it so much."

The start of the 500-mile race was delayed by rain, then had two lengthy red flag stops that totaled nearly 50 minutes.

Elliott Sadler and Kurt Busch both walked away from scary wrecks that knocked them out of the race. Sadler and Bush were the beneficiaries of NASCAR's safer Car of Tomorrow after two violent wrecks. Sadler was forced to lay down on the triangle track and suffered a sore chest and stomach after smacking the inside wall. The engine on his No. 19 Ford was ripped from the body and smoldered nearby.

He called it his hardest hit ever in a race car. It came a day after he was the Trucks Series race winner here.

Busch's No. 2 Dodge was hit from behind on a bump drafting attempt by four-time defending series champion Jimmie Johnson. Busch slammed into the wall, skidded along the grass, and smashed into an infield barrier.

That brought out the first red flag, for 28 minutes, 46 seconds. The second one was for rain and lasted 17:20. The start of the race was delayed 36 minutes by rain.

Biffle was one of the harshest critics of the track in a recent Sports Illustrated story, saying "they're going to kill somebody there."

Track officials have promised changes — like adding more SAFER barriers along the inside wall — in time for next year's races. The track was deemed by some unsafe after an accident in the June race involving Kasey Kahne



Greg Biffle celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series' Pennsylvania 500 auto race Sunday, Aug. 1, 2010, in Long Pond, Pa.

Associated Press

Jeff Gordon, who was sixth, slammed the track and said improvements can't come soon enough.

"I think there's a time when we've got to step up the technology safety at certain facilities," Gordon said. "We've seen two incidences here this year, and I think it's going to be a wake-up call for some improvement."

Biffle had little to complain about on Sunday. Biffle had muddled through the season without a win and only three top-fives. He's made the Chase the last two years and was series runner-up in 2005. Before Indianapolis, he finished 16th-20th-35th in his last three races and hardly seemed like a Chase contender.

Not now. He won his 15th career Cup race and joked in Victory Lane he had forgotten how to celebrate. "We know we have a great team and I know I can do it behind the wheel and we were able to prove it today," Biffle said. □

Lookin At Lucky is good, too; romps in Haskell



Eventual winner Lookin At Lucky, with jockey Martin Garcia, second from left, heads into the first turn in a pack at the Haskell Invitational horse race at Monmouth Park in Oceanport, N.J., Sunday, Aug. 1, 2010.

By **RICHARD ROSENBLATT**
AP Sports Writer

OCEANPORT, N.J. — As the Kentucky Derby and Preakness winners surged to the lead around the far turn in the \$1 million Haskell Invitational, more than 40,000 fans stood and cheered in anticipation of a thrilling stretch duel.

But just like that, with a shake of reins, it was all over at the top of the stretch: Lookin At Lucky burst into the clear under Martin Garcia and cruised to a four-length victory over Trappe Shot in Monmouth Park's showcase race.

"He's been sitting on a really

big race," winning trainer Bob Baffert said of the colt's first start since winning the Preakness. "He's been training just unbelievably. It's good to see him finally come out of his shell.

"He's growing up and he stamped himself as a great horse."

The emphatic win Sunday confirmed Lookin At Lucky's status as the best 3-year-old in the country, and it came against a star-studded, seven-horse field considered the strongest in the 43-year-old history of the race. It was the first time the race featured the Derby and the Preakness winner.

parred the three par fives at 15, 17 and 18, which had yielded so many birdies and eagles throughout the week. Hull, whose putt for birdie at the 17th had lipped out, was understandably disappointed but still upbeat at the end. "I'll probably be working on my short game after that finish," Hull said with a smile. "I couldn't believe when that putt on 17 stayed out, but never mind I did the best I could. I felt pretty good coming into the week, so there are lots of positives I can take from my performance."

Koreans Na Yeon Choi and In kyung Kim shared third

Associated Press

A bay son of Smart Strike, Lookin At Lucky won for the third time in five starts this year, and the 2-year-old champion improved his career record to eight wins in 10 starts for earnings of \$2.7 million for owners Mike Pegram, Karl Watson and Paul Weitman.

"He finally got to show off," Pegram said. "Bobby has always told us what kind of horse we had, and he proved it today."

First Dude finished third, followed by Derby winner Super Saver, Afleet Again, Ice Box and Our Dark Knight. Uptowncharlybrown was a morning scratch.

on 7-under 281 after closing with 68 and 71 respectively and American Cristie Kerr shared fifth on 6-under with two other Koreans, Heekyung Seo and Amy Yangon. Sweden's Caroline Hedwall won the Smyth Salver, awarded to the leading amateur for her 3-over 291. The 21-year-old student at Oklahoma State University closed with a 70 which included five birdies and a triple-bogey six at the short 12th when she got in trouble at the back of the green, took two to get out and then three putted.

Hedwall, who qualified

With the win, Hall of Famer Baffert becomes the first trainer to win the Haskell four times. He also won with Point Given (2001), War Emblem (2002) and Roman Ruler (2005).

Sent off as the 6-5 favorite, Lookin At Lucky returned \$4.40, \$3 and \$2.40. Trappe Shot, who missed the Triple Crown races but had won four in a row, paid \$3.40 and \$2.60. First Dude, second in the Preakness and third in the Belmont Stakes, paid \$3 to show.

The winning time for the 1 1-8 miles over a fast Monmouth Park track was 1:49.83

The Triple Crown races produced three winners — Drosselmeyer won the Belmont Stakes — and did little to determine a leading 3-year-old. But Lookin At Lucky was considered by many to be the best, although a troubled trip in the Derby, where he finished sixth, raised a few questions.

The answers came on a cool, sunny day at the Jersey Shore track. Sitting fourth behind First Dude, Our Dark Knight and Super Saver, Lookin At Lucky, who drew the No. 1 post but was taken outside on the first turn, made a move for the front coming out of the backstretch. Super Saver, with Calvin Borel aboard, also moved as did Trappe Shot.

The Derby and Preakness winners battled briefly for

the lead before Garcia asked Lookin at Lucky for more and that was that.

"When I saw that move at the turn, I knew it was over," Baffert said. "It's like winning a classic."

Garcia said, "Bob told me 'you know you're on the best horse, just give him a nice breather and then send him.'" Trainer Todd Pletcher thought Super Saver ran well, but added "he got a little tired off the layoff. Hopefully this race will move him forward."

The Derby and Preakness winners could meet again in the \$1 million Travers on Aug. 28 at Saratoga. If they do, Lookin At Lucky will be the horse to beat.

If not for bad luck, Lookin At Lucky may have won 'em all. In the Derby, he drew the rail, got roughed up by other horses twice, nearly went down but still finished sixth. After the race, Baffert switched riders from Garrett Gomez to Garcia in an attempt to change Lucky's luck.

It worked in the Preakness, where he got a smooth trip and beat First Dude by three-quarters of a length.

In his two other defeats, Lookin At Lucky had a difficult trip in the Santa Anita Derby and was bumped while running wide in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile.

"We've been waiting for a coming out party," Baffert said. "He's just improving and getting better and better." □

BRITISH OPEN

Continued from Page 12

They both dropped a stroke at the eighth and both parred the ninth to be out in 35.

The deficit was cut in half on the next two holes. Tseng, who had only one bogey in her three previous rounds of 68, got her third one of the final round at the 10th when she three-putted from 30 feet. Hull cut the deficit to two when she sank a 30-footer at the 11th after hitting a 9-iron into the green.

Two holes later Tseng's lead was only one when Hull put her 5-iron second to three feet and sank it. The players



Australia's Katherine Hull tees off on the second hole during the final round of the women's British Open, at Royal Birkdale Golf Club, Southport, England, Sunday Aug. 1, 2010

Associated Press

by winning the European Individual Championship, shot 74-75-72 in the first three rounds. □

FARMERS CLASSIC

Continued from Page 12

“That’s the highest-ranked guy I’ve ever beat,” Querrey said.

Querrey became the first player since last year to win two matches from match point down in the same tournament. He saved one match point in the semifinals against Janko Tipsarevic.

“I wasn’t going to give it to him,” Querrey said about Murray. “I was going to make him come up with a shot to beat me.” Murray was a first-time visitor to Los Angeles, coming in as the top seed to replace Novak Djokovic, who withdrew before the tournament because he needed more rest.

“I’ve got to be happy getting to the final and having chances to win,” he said. “I didn’t play my best tennis. Just tired.”

Second-seeded Querrey beat Murray for the first time in five career matches. He had never even taken a set off the

Scotsman until winning the second set tiebreaker with a forehand winner.

Querrey earned the only break of the third set in the sixth game, when Murray netted a forehand and angrily punched his racket strings, bloodying his right knuckles.

Murray threatened to break in the final game at 40-30, but Querrey came up with a winning forehand for deuce. Murray returned a big serve long, then missed another backhand on match point.

The Bryans had shared the ATP record with Australians Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde, who won 61 titles. “The Woodies put a record way out there. Sixty-one was Mount Everest when we started,” Mike Bryan said. “We love what we do. To get this, one of their many records, is special.”

Woodforde was on hand to congratulate the brothers.

“For many, many years you’ve been traveling in

elite company. Thanks to the victory today you’re in rarefied air. You guys stand together as one,” he said. “I know this 62nd victory has been waiting since May. Our run sort of ended because I elected to retire, but I know you two will continue for years to come. The floodgates will open entirely, so I know 70, 80 will come.”

The Bryans won their sixth title in the tournament at the Los Angeles Tennis Center on the UCLA campus, not far from their hometown of Camarillo in Ventura County, not far from where Querrey grew up in Thousand Oaks.

It was their 16th consecutive match win in the Farmers Classic. Mike jumped into Bob’s arms to celebrate in front of several family members, including parents Wayne and Kathy.

“We really looked up to the Woodies,” Bob Bryan said. “They didn’t have the power and big serves, but they had the poaching and

the technique. To share this record with my brother is everything.”

The 32-year-old brothers turned professional in 1998 and won their first ATP doubles title in 2001. They’ve won seven Grand Slam titles together, including last year’s Australian Open. As kids, they were forbidden to play each other in singles tournaments, and if the draw matched them up, they would alternately default.

There were no service breaks in the first set, when the Bryans blew two leads in the tiebreaker. Butorac and Rojer won the final three points to take the tiebreaker.

The Bryans rallied to win the second set, which featured five service breaks.

In the match tiebreak — the first to 10 points with a two-point margin wins — the Bryans raced to a 5-0 lead as fans chanted for them. Butorac and Rojer twice got back to level, the last at 7-all, before the brothers won the



Mike Bryan, right, jumps into the arms of his brother Bob Bryan after they defeated Eric Butorac and Jean-Julien Rojer of the Netherlands Antilles in their final match at the Farmers Classic tennis tournament, Sunday, Aug. 1, 2010, in Los Angeles. The twin brothers won 6-7 (8-6), 6-2 (10-7), the Bryans’ 100th career final and a record 62nd career doubles title on the ATP Tour.

Associated Press

final three points to make history.

Butorac and Rojer were playing their first final together. □

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Stuart Appleby shoots 59 at Greenbrier Classic



Greenbrier resort owner, Jim Justice, left, adjusts the Greenbrier jacket that he presented to winner Stuart Appleby, of Australia, on the 18th green at the Greenbrier Classic golf tournament at the Greenbrier in White Sulphur Springs, W.Va., Sunday, Aug. 1, 2010. Appleby hit golf's magic number Sunday, shooting a 59 to win the Greenbrier Classic.

Associated Press

JOHN RABY
AP Sports Writer

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, West Virginia (AP) — Stuart Appleby hit golf's magic number Sunday, shooting a 59 to win the Greenbrier Classic

and become the fifth PGA Tour player to reach the low-round record. The Australian player birdied the final three holes with putts of 15 feet or less to win the tournament by a stroke and get down to

59. He also broke a four-year winless drought, when third-round leader Jeff Overton narrowly missed a long birdie attempt on the par-3 18th that would have forced a playoff.

"I was quite comfortable," Appleby said. "It's not a nerve-racking thing to be involved in. I had a lot of opportunities and I made them. It was great to do that to win the tournament."

Appleby's 11-under round on the Old White course put him at 22 under. Overton, playing three groups behind Appleby, shot 67 to finish at 21 under.

"I did the math. I was chasing Jeff, who was heading toward the finish line," Appleby said. "At the same time I was playing well and I thought if I could keep making birdies ... I knew I was going to run out of holes. There was plenty

of (birdie chances) coming in."

Appleby's round came less than a month after Paul Goydos shot a 59 at the John Deere Classic.

The others to shoot 59 were Al Geiberger at the 1977 Memphis Classic, Chip Beck at the 1991 Las Vegas Invitational and David Duval at the 1999 Bob Hope Classic.

Appleby had nine birdies and an eagle in his round to earn the \$1.08 million winner's prize.

He saw playing partner D.A. Points flirt with a 59 on Saturday before settling for a 61. On Sunday, it was Appleby's turn.

"It was nice to be on the receiving end," Appleby said after his first PGA Tour title since the 2006 Houston Open. His previous career low was 62 in the 2003 Las Vegas Invitational.

Appleby's achievement was the first 59 on a par-70 course. Goydos' came on a par 71 and the others on par 72s. Appleby understands there might be some debate as to whether his achievement is right up there with the others.

"I agree," he said. "I can see both sides of the fence. It is a number. I shot that number. But who says par is supposed to be 72? There's a lot of great courses that aren't 72."

Appleby didn't have the advantage of lift, clean and place that Goydos and Geiberger enjoyed, even though overnight rains left mud on some balls.

Appleby trailed Overton by seven strokes to start his round, shot 6-under 28 on

the front nine and eagled the par-5 12th before settling for three straight pars.

He got his momentum going again just in time with birdies of 15, 10 and 11 feet on the final three holes.

Standing over his putt on 18, "I knew what it was all about," Appleby said. "I knew I had to make it — I knew I had to make it for the tournament, I knew I had to make it to have a 59. I'm sitting there going 'How many opportunities are you going to get to do this?'"

"The cards had been laying out perfectly for me all day. Why wasn't I going to do one more? I just got a good look at it and just — bang — it felt good."

Appleby's feat toppled the course record of 60 set by Sam Snead in 1950 and matched Saturday by J.B. Holmes.

The 39-year-old Appleby has played 11 straight weeks. He'll tee it up again starting Thursday at the Bridgestone Invitational in Akron, Ohio.

Overton had 34 putts in the final round, three-putting three times.

"I got beat by a 59," said Overton, who had his third runner-up finish of the year and remains winless in five years on the Tour. "What can you say? I played great, hit a lot of great shots. You can't win golf tournaments when you putt it that bad."

Brendon de Jonge (65) finished third at 17 under. Tied at 15 under were Points (70), Woody Austin (63), Paul Stankowski (64), Roger Tambellini (65) and Jimmy Walker (67). □

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Totto Tu Opens at the Palm Beach Plaza Mall



PALM BEACH PLAZA -- Totto, a leading Latin American brand with a style and dynamism all of its own, opened an elegant and exciting store at the Palm Beach Plaza.

Page B2

At Cas Di Cultura Art Rules Aruba Concludes with a Fantastic Show



ORANJESTAD -- Congratulations Aruba! The island is now blessed with a great number of fresh and talented photographers, fashion designers, rappers, poets, DJs, film makers & dancers, all new members of Aruba's artist community.

Page B10

2nd Edition of Aruba Rembrandt Regatta announced

PALM BEACH - On August 13, 14 and 15 the second edition of the Aruba Rembrandt Regatta will take place. 3 days of parties, 2 days of races! Join the Aruba Rembrandt Regatta for 3 spectacular Yacht Races, 5 Sunfish Races, 5 Beachcat Races, 4 Windsurf Competitions, 3 Kitesurf Competitions, Kitesurf-Freestyle Demonstrations, Swimming Competition, the all new Beach Party and much more!

A team of about 30 volunteers, supported by the team of Cafe Rembrandt and the Dutch Marines, are preparing for this yearly event in order to make the organization during the races run smoothly. Participants from Aruba, Curacao, Venezuela, St Maarten, the Netherlands and even as far as South Africa will participate in the yacht races. The windsurfing, kitesurfing, beach cat and sunfish competition will be spectacular since spectators can follow all the races from the beach. To wash away all



the racing stress there will be a swimming competition at the regatta site on Saturday, 5 pm.

The beach festival on Saturday promises to be a success with a live performance by Ear Plugs at 6 pm and music by Club Arashi. The bar, restaurant and ice cream parlour will be open from 10 AM until 11 PM. On Friday and Sunday the parties with live performances will be at Cafe Rembrandt for the opening on Friday at 7 pm

and the award ceremony and closing dinner on Sunday at 7 pm.

The Dutch Marines will be on site during the Regatta weekend and will have demonstrations of their skills on Saturday and Sunday at 12:30.

Be part of this spectacular event as a participant or as a spectator. Participants and spectators can find the full regatta schedule, pictures and updates at aruba-regatta.com, for more information or registration contact eric@aruba-regatta.com ☐



Totto Tu Opens at the Palm Beach Plaza Mall



PALM BEACH PLAZA -- Totto, a leading Latin American brand with a style and dynamism all of its own, opened an elegant and exciting store at the Palm Beach Plaza. The official ribbon cutting was performed by Juan Camilo & Grace Vasquez, the local partners who report the new addition is called Totto Tu and offers clothes for kids between the ages of 6 and 16 with a Back To School emphasis. The company's new backpack with a solar-charger, received plenty of attention as an Enviro gadget, capable of charging cell phones, MP3s, games and iPods, and heralded as a green backpack, and every child's object of desire. You may discover your



individual style at Totto Tu, Palm Beach Plaza Mall, and store manager Lina Maria

Tromp Iberra confirms two more outlets in town. At Totto, shoppers can find an impressive collection of casual clothing and street wear, bags, and other accessories like perfume, sunglasses, and watches. Totto products feature sophisticated design, originality, durability of materials, and maximum comfort, and hail from Colombia. □



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Summer Carnival in Rotterdam Holland



ROTTERDAM - Summers with its warm and sunny days make the perfect time to indulge in some grasping activities with everyone and carnivals are the best way to do this.

Carnivals all over the world have grown big but each carnival has its own identity and something distinct that can be associated with it. During carnival, Rotterdam in Netherlands transforms itself into a big party zone where everyone forgets everything and just has fun. The Summer Carnival 2010 in Rotterdam would be the best way to participate in a cultural event and witness the warmth of the city.

The 3-day Caribbean carnival will be held in the city centre with the grand Street Parade on July 31. Travelers from all over Europe will dance to

the Latin tunes and the grand floats and the vibrant costumes will sprinkle more hues on the summer carnival. The Battle of

Drums on July 30 will see the finest brass bands competing for the coveted best spot. The city centre in Rotterdam

surely transforms into a grand stage where the entire artist perform brilliantly and are applauded in an equal manner. The Rotterdam carnival or

the Zomer carnival as it is also known is one of the most eagerly awaited events in Netherlands and millions who attend it. □

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Bucuti & Tara Beach Resorts Introduces Eco-Chic Weddings



ORANJESTAD - Bucuti & Tara Beach Resorts, Aruba's premier resort for romance, has launched a new Eco-Chic Aruba Wedding Experience for couples looking to go green on their big day. Bucuti has been committed to sustainable tourism for more than 25 years and has incorporated

both environmentally friendly and locally influenced elements into its Eco-Chic Aruba Wedding Experience including:

- * A location on one of the "Dream Beaches of the World" that provides spectacular scenery, reducing the need for

air conditioning and lighting

- * A ceremony and reception at the same location, or within close proximity to limit travel impact and expenses. If the distance between venues is too great to walk, earth-friendly options can be arranged. A horse drawn carriage is efficient, romantic and it doesn't burn gas.

Group transportation can also be arranged.

- * Locally inspired décor including centerpieces made from recycled wine bottles and indigenous flowers or cacti in terra cotta pots

- * Do it yourself (DIY) indigenous favors such as handmade boxes tied with palm leaves

- * Reception menus including locally produced, grown and organically prepared food; authentic local dishes can also be incorporated

- * Authentic Aruban entertainment such as a renowned steel pan player, Aruban waltz dancers and a crank operated piano known as Kah'I Orgel or a Tingilingi Box

- * Traditional Aruban wedding favors like the "Bolo Preto" or "Black Cake" which is similar to a groom's fruit cake

- * Programs and place cards printed using recycled paper and non-toxic ink

- * Palm leaf confetti instead of rice, which can be harmful to wildlife

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"At Bucuti, we are passionate about preserving the environment so we can share our spectacular island with brides and grooms well into the future," said owner and CEO Ewald Biemans. "We look forward to many new couples immersing themselves in the natural beauty of Aruba through the Eco-Chic Aruba Wedding Experience."

For more information on the Eco-Chic Aruba Wedding Experience, couples can contact Bucuti's in-house wedding coordinator Nashette Wouters who has been trained by the Association of Certified Professional Wedding Consultants and holds one of the highest distinctions in the industry as a Beverly Clark Certified Wedding Professional. □

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EAGLEBEACH—Themonthly cafeteria theme surprised associates with terrific Casino Royal decorations courtesy of the PBX, the Front Desk and the Bell Stand, who worked very hard to totally transform the lunch experience at the Chit Chat Café including the recorded sound to slot machine



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The monthly theme inspires resort associates to step up their creativity and outdo each other in an effort to entertain cafeteria-goers during their lunch break. □



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HUMAN HINTS

Cut to the Chase

Personal development can be filled with meaningless fluff. It is easy enough to toss out catch phrases, but what can we actually do to improve our selves and our lives?

What actions can we take in every moment of our lives, that will back up the ideas we all claim to live by? Lets get right to it.

Change your perspective on your life. Think about your life as abundant and manageable. Define where you want to go and take

physical action to get there. You define where you want to go, then get there by taking action with conscious intent. Be patient. Expect it to take longer than you think, and expect your path to go in surprise directions. Go with the uncontrollable surprises.

Take directed physical action toward your goal. If we just read and think about things, the knowledge is limited to our mind. We must put our knowledge into practice in our physical

lives. If we take purposeful physical action with the conscious intent of reaching a specific destination, we facilitate the manifestation into three dimensions. Action manifests Thought.

If you feel lost and you don't know where you're going, don't forget that you define the destination. It will help to clearly define what is important to you and what your long and short-term goals are.

List and prioritize what you value. Kids, career, fun, excitement, rest, etc. Work with the items on your list. Consider the time frame and what the situation allows. Create a rough plan that could possibly lead you to fulfill all the things that are important to you.

For example, you must consider your kids first, but while you're raising them, you can be setting yourself up to do whatever you want when they leave home. Balance your priorities from moment to moment. Your long-term overall goals will be your foundation. They can be broken up

into categories and sub-categories, until you have specific action to take every day.

Once you're more clear about what you want and what's important to you now and in the future, come up with actions that will lead you closer to your goals.

Start big and general, then get smaller and more specific, until you have an action you can take each day that will lead you to your goal over time.

At the end of each day, think of whatever you accomplished that brought you closer to your self-defined long-term goals. Each day, you will be at least one step, one action closer to your goals

The entire point is to change our attitudes from victimized lack to empowered abundance. The attitude of abundance is already here, enveloping us in every moment, but we don't see it because we don't have a fourth dimensional perspective.

Until Tomorrow...

Go to www.HumanHints.com to sign up to receive this column in your email each day.


~Quentin Danziger

Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has also studied many avenues of alternative thought.


HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you choose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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UNTHINKABLE daily: 4:30 - 6:45 matinee: late show: R	GROWN UPS daily: 4:45 - 7:15 - 9:30 matinee: 12:00 - 2:30 late show: 11:45 PG-13
G-FORCE daily: matinee: 12:00 - 2:10 late show: PG	THE KARATE KID daily: 3:30 matinee: 12:30 PG
DESPICABLE ME 3D daily: 4:30 matinee: 12:00 - 2:15 PG late show:	KNIGHT & DAY daily: 6:30 - 9:00 matinee: late show: 11:30 PG-13
THE LAST AIRBENDER daily: 6:45 - 9:00 PG matinee: late show: 11:15	THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE daily: 3:45 - 6:15 - 8:45 matinee: 1:00 late show: 11:15 PG
TOY STORY 3 3D daily: 6:00 matinee: 12:50 - 3:30 PG late show:	DESPICABLE ME 3D daily: 4:45 matinee: 12:15 - 2:30 PG late show:
SALT daily: 8:30 matinee: late show: 11:00 PG-13	THE LAST AIRBENDER daily: 7:00 - 9:15 PG matinee: late show: 11:30
THE KARATE KID daily: matinee: 12:15 - 3:15 PG late show:	SALT daily: 4:15 - 6:30 - 8:30 matinee: late show: 11:00 PG-13
PREDATORS daily: 6:10 - 8:45 matinee: late show: 11:30 R	THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG daily: matinee: 12:00 - 2:00 G late show:
GROWN UPS daily: 4:45 - 7:00 - 9:15 matinee: 12:00 - 2:30 late show: 11:50 PG	
THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE daily: 5:30 - 8:00 matinee: 12:30 - 3:00 PG late show: 11:00	

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Seafood dishes range from the fresh Catch of the Day, prepared according to preference, to the amazingly decadent Caribbean Stuffed Shrimp with Crabmeat and Bacon. The tequila and sweet-chili glaze lends the jumbo shrimp a pure taste of heaven! Light eaters will find the Jerk-Curried Chicken Skewers and the Lemon-Herb Broiled Chicken very satisfying while meat-lovers should opt for the restaurant's famous South American Certified Beef Churrasco or a juicy USDA beef selection such as the Charcoal NY Sirloin Steak or the Grilled Filet Mignon. Hungrier patrons will appreciate the Ambassador's 5-Course Menu featuring the run of the regular menu's highlights for just \$34.95 per person. The French Steakhouse at Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa offers a truly unique dining experience—indoor or out—7 days a week from 5:30 PM to 11 PM. For more information, please visit <http://www.manchebo.com/steakhouse/> □



Eagle Beach – The French Steakhouse at the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa prides itself on the elegant dining experience it offers patrons. Reminiscent of a 1950s French café, the fully air-conditioned indoor dining room delights diners with its sparkling china, crisp linen, interesting bread baskets, and hand-painted tiles bordering the walls. A gracious staff, colossal desserts, and live jazz performed by Eddy Samson on piano add the perfect touches. Yet recently the idea of adding a garden spot to the existing blueprint began to sprout in the creative mind of Executive Chef George Hoek, and he immediately recruited the landscapers to create the intimate, lovely setting. Now patrons have another charming dining option at the French Steakhouse—a tropical alfresco courtyard featuring delicious cuisine under the stars. Diners can choose from the restaurant's famed "Ooh-La-La" menu offerings, including creative appetizers, soups, salads, seafood dishes, poultry, and the pièce de résistance—South American and USDA beef specialties. Among other popular appetizers, the chef's Tropical Crab Cakes with pineapple-mango salsa and the Teriyaki-Glazed Seared Duck Breast served with garden greens and balsamic dressing are real crowd-pleasers. The French Onion Soup is true to the restaurant's roots while the Honey-Glazed Salmon Salad winks at the exotic East with a sweet soy dressing.

Giorgio's Ristorante Italiano introduces Menu Turistico



Eagle Beach -- Giorgio's Ristorante Italiano, located at the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa in the heart of the low-rise hotel area, delivers authentic Mediterranean flavors at a reasonable price in a charming alfresco poolside setting. The restaurant has just introduced Menu Turistico, a 3-course dinner featuring an appetizer, main course, and dessert for just \$19.95 per person, plus 15% service charge. Patrons may choose between homemade soup and Caesar salad for the starter; between Fettuccini Alfredo, Lasagna Casarecia, Spaghetti alla Bolognese, and any favorite pizza for the main course; and between tiramisu, cheesecake, and ice cream for the sweet finale. Of course, the regular menu

continues to offer delicious antipasto and salads, like the Calamari Fritti and the Insalati Bistrot; hearty Italian soups; fresh fish dishes, including Salmone Affogaro in Bianco; pasta dishes, like the Tortellini alla Gorgonzola; pizzas; meat dishes, like the Fileto Di Bue alla Castellana; decadent desserts, such as the Cream-Filled Cannoli; flavorful coffees; and the finest Italian wines. Executive Chef George Hoek is the resort's much-appreciated culinary expert. He was the recent recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Shoco Award, presented by the Aruba Hotel & Tourism Association in collaboration with the Digicel Group. The award is a national award of excellence and Aruba's top professional decoration in the hospitality industry. Open 7 days a week for breakfast and dinner, Giorgio's makes authentic Italian cuisine a reality on Aruba. Patrons are cordially invited to bring a healthy appetite. □

Pega Pega Café & Beach Bar reinvents beach cuisine



Eagle Beach – Pega Pega Café & Beach Bar at the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa is widely recognized as the home of beach cuisine. Executive Chef George Hoek and his culinary team serve a sun-splashed menu on the oceanfront terrace, raising the restaurant to must-try status. Inspired by American, Mexican, Thai, Jamaican, Cuban, Greek, and Mediterranean kitchens, the menu lists favorite international dishes all served with a tropical, Caribbean flair. Patrons can choose from a variety of tasty starters, like Wings on Fire and the Fiesta Snack Platter. Pega Pega's Sun-Sational Salads—including the Thai Chicken Salad and the Caribbean Fruit Symphony—provide a light lunch alternative. From the sandwich

board come the Cuban-Pressed Chicken Sandwich, the Grilled Grouper Reuben Sandwich, the Cudarebo Fish Taco, and the Philly Steak Sandwich. Mid-day platters also include vegetarian options and a variety of oversized beef burgers. Pega Pega's tropical & frozen cocktail list leaves nothing out. A wide range of frosty beverages—from daiquiris, coladas, margaritas, and fruit or ice-cream smoothies to specialty blends like the Yellow Bird, Sex on the Beach, and the Cabuya—pretty much guarantees the perfect refreshing addition to lunch. A daily happy hour featuring live music is a great way to watch the sunset and kick off the evening. Pega Pega Café & Beach Bar is open on fabulous Eagle Beach every day from noon to 5 PM for lunch and from 11 AM to 11 PM for drinks. Patrons are cordially welcomed to enjoy the unrivaled views, caring service, and relaxed atmosphere of one of Aruba's oldest beach bars. □



At Arawak Garden

Food & Wine Festival takes guests around the world



PALM BEACH - Arawak Garden presented its Food & Wine Festival this past Saturday, July 31st. As promised, it was a fantastic event that transported guests on a virtual plane with culinary treats from around the world! For instance, the Flight to Spain at Salt & Pepper Restaurant was a successful treat. With an order three tapas of your choice and you only had to

pay for two. Another plane took you to Argentina at Tango Restaurant: There everyone enjoyed a fantastic BBQ dinner. Tango is renowned for its excellent cuts of meat. The trip didn't end there as the Flight to New Zealand entailed a special adventure at Fishes & More. This popular restaurant at Arawak Garden offered a three-course delight. Topping it off with a Flight to



France at Casa Tua, where a Pizza Orientale is great!



Next door at Sopranos Piano Bar was a real treat offering special wines and a live cigar roller. The live music and a raffle with lots of prizes was the cherry on top of the Arawak Garden Food & Wine Festival sponsored by Burger King, Romar Trading, Compra, Pepia Est and Aruba Wine & Dine.

Arawak Garden is located in the high rise area across from the Occidental Resort. □

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PALM BEACH - The health and calorie conscious among us need fear steakhouses no more. Whether it's a low-carb, low-fat, or even vegetarian diet you follow, Texas de Brazil Churrascaria fits into just about every dieter's menu plan.

Low carb eaters will have all their expectations surpassed with a tempting carnivorous selection of umpteen cuts of sizzling beef, pork, lamb, sausage, and poultry. The meats are prepared in the healthiest style of cooking—slow roasting—where much of the fat drips off in the roasting process, so those looking for a lower fat option to sautéing, pan frying, or deep frying will also be able to indulge.

The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers up a garden full of healthy eats on a lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the

slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but Texas de Brazil's version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, homemade soups, and much more.

The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, Texas de Brazil will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal.

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At Cas Di Cultura

Art Rules Aruba Concludes with a Fantastic Show



ORANJESTAD -- Congratulations Aruba! The island is now blessed with a great number of fresh and talented photographers, fashion designers, rappers, poets, DJs, film makers & dancers, all new members of

Aruba's artist community. The budding artists are two hundred and fifty youths, ages 14-21, who had just concluded an exciting two-week summer vacation program with teachers from around the world including

London, Amsterdam, New York, Washington, Rotterdam and Quebec, Canada covering seven artistic disciplines. The enthusiastic students showcased all that they have learned over the past two weeks at Cas di Cultura on July 31st, to a packed audience of cheering family members and friend, dancing like they have never danced before, reciting individual poetry and group literary works, deliver famous Shakespearian dialogues, spinning and mixing fabulous music and graphics, designing over-the-top outfits, strutting them on the cat-walk and displaying sensitive and interesting photographs for public viewing.

The photo exhibition in the foyer had many remarkable snapshots on display, in combination with the artistic sketch books created by the fashion designers.

The evening opened with a fast and hip fashion show, and continued inside the theater, with a two-and-a-half-hour program of short movies, dance, poetry and drama.



Thank you Ira & Ayra Kip – two young women with a highly evolved social consciousness - for organizing this tremendous two week event. Thank you sponsors for supporting Art Rules Aruba 2010. Ira & Ayra report there will be a 2011 edition next summer! ☐



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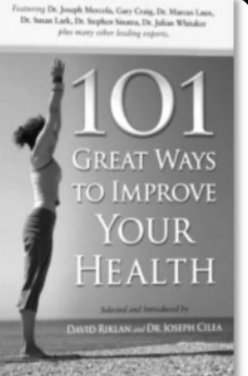
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Carlos Viana, OMD, CCN

Can Surfing the Internet Help You Lose Weight?

By **BELINDA LUSCOMBE**

The Web, it sometimes seems, is a siren specter that lures us into sitting around like some species of houseplant while our trunk grows abnormally wide. Its abundant enticements keep us from doing what we know we should, like, say, making any movement whatsoever or consuming foods that do not come packaged in styrofoam. But according to new research, the Internet can also be something else: a place for helping people keep weight off.

The new study, conducted over a two-and-a-half-year period, found that the more often people logged on to a website, the more likely they were to maintain weight loss. Of course, it wasn't just any old website, but one that investigators at the Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Research (KPCHR) had designed specifically to help people keep the pounds off. What made the website work, the authors of the study believe, was its mixture of accountability and sociability. Users were asked log in once a week to enter their weight and the amount of exercise they'd done.

If they didn't log in regularly, they got a little nudge by e-mail, then an automated phone call. Once on the site, users could chat with other participants of the study in a kind of mini-Facebook setting.

The site was designed to mimic as much as possible what it's like to be in a weight-loss program that offers personal counseling and group meetings. It wasn't quite as effective as human-to-human interaction, but it was better than nothing at all. "While

personal counseling may be the Cadillac version, it's not practical for everyone," says Kristine Funk, lead author of the study, published in the Journal of Medical Internet Research.

The study began with 1,600 overweight or obese participants, about 350 of whom lost enough weight - an average 19 lb. - during the first six months to stay in the trial for the Web-based maintenance phase. By the end of that two-and-a-half-year portion of the study, the users who had logged on the most regularly - at least once a month for 28 months - had kept off the most weight, an average of 9 lbs. People who used the website the least kept off only 3 lb. on average. "The consistency piece is definitely very important for keeping weight gain at bay," says Funk.

None of this is particularly surprising to Nancy Makin, who lost more than a quarter of ton after her sister bought her a computer for her birthday in 2003. Afraid to go out, because of the stares her 703 lb. frame attracted, she went online and found she could easily make friends with people who couldn't see her.

"The people on the Internet didn't know they were supposed to reject me," says Makin, who now weighs about 170 lbs. "And that fed me and I was allowed to let my spirit come out. I replaced a very poor tool for judging myself with a very fulfilling activity."

Once she found a community online, Makin says began to lose weight, not because she was less hungry, but because she had an activity besides eating that made her feel good.

And because she felt better about herself. "I had 20 emails in my inbox each morning," she says.

The original KPCHR site is no longer live, but Funk notes there are plenty of others that do almost the same thing. "What you want to look for is a site that has a few key components: a recording

feature to keep track of weight, a feedback mechanism and support resources from either experts or other high quality information," she advises.

Makin, whose memoir, 703, came out earlier this year, says that while accountability is important for those who are merely overweight, community may be more important for

people who are morbidly obese like she was. "The key is to find contentment and value in yourself by reaching out and doing something not for you, and the weight will come off as a side effect," she says.

And if you have a website where you can talk about it, so much the better. □

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INDOOR & OPEN AIR

Huge Hurricane Study Gears Up

Andrea Mustain

Galveston, Texas, is the site of the deadliest weather disaster in U.S. history. In 1900, a hurricane sent walls of water surging across the island, killing an estimated 8,000 people.

Two years ago, in 2008, Hurricane Ike devastated the town once again, leaving almost 75 percent of the island underwater. Only this time, most people managed to escape the storm's wrath - because of technological advances, they knew when it was coming.

Thanks to modern technology and computer modeling, forecasters can predict storms with increasing accuracy. But in many ways hurricanes remain mysterious and erratic beasts, difficult to track, and packing mercurial might.

A massive research project this summer may help reveal some of the storms' best-kept secrets. Researchers sponsored by three government agencies - NASA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the National Science Foundation (NSF), will swarm the skies of the tropical Atlantic Ocean with specially outfitted planes in an effort to better understand how - and why - tropical cyclones form in the first place.

Christopher Davis, a scientist with the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), said one crucial question the researchers hope to help answer is why some storms grow and turn deadly, while others fade away with relatively little fuss.

"The idea here is if we can come up with what is the essential distinguishing characteristic between storms that develop and storms that do not, it may tell forecasters what they really need to look for," Davis said.

Toward better PREDICTions

Davis is lead investigator for the effort, called the PREDICT (Pre-Depression Investigation of Cloud Systems in the Tropics) study, based out of St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands, which will use a G-V jet that can fly for a distance of 7,000 miles (11,300 kilometers) at an altitude of 43,000 feet (13,100 meters), high above the storms' reach.

On twice-daily flights, scientists will toss from the plane small, instrument-laden parachutes (called dropsondes), which will hurtle down through whatever storm systems researchers can find, sending back information on everything from temperature to wind speed to humidity.

Davis told OurAmazingPlanet that it's this latest data set - humidity - that is of particular interest to his team.

Hot winds travel to the tropical Atlantic all the way from the Sahara, Davis said, carrying dust and dry air with them in thick plumes. "There's pretty strong evidence that if the dry air is ingested into a developing system, it's less likely to develop," he said. "It can really matter."

And, he added, it's one of those things a satellite just can't see very well, which is why the data-gathering flights are so important.

In addition to PREDICT's G-V jet, six additional aircraft, three from NASA and three from NOAA, will coordinate their flight paths to soar through, above, and around storms from mid-August through the end of September, gathering an unprecedented amount of data during the height of the Atlantic and Gulf hurricane season.

One of PREDICT's aims is to extend the current five-day limit on hurricane forecasting out to seven

days, a goal that the National Hurricane Center's Dennis Feltgen said should be within reach within the decade.

"We've made tremendous strides in track forecasting," Feltgen said. "Our five-day forecast is as accurate as our three-day track forecast just 15 years ago."

Improving intensity estimates

And while track forecasting - the ability to predict where a storm is heading - has improved dramatically over the years, Robert Rogers, field program director for NOAA's hurricane study, said improvements in predicting how the intensity of a storm will change has lagged behind.

"It's very important for emergency managers," Rogers told OurAmazingPlanet.

"The nightmare scenario is a Category One [hurricane] is approaching the Gulf coast, and then suddenly overnight it turns into a Category Four." (Hurricanes are ranked on the Saffir-Simpson scale of intensity, which rates hurricanes based on ranges of wind speeds. The lowest category is Category One, the highest is Category 5.

Learning how to better predict rapid intensity change is the focus of Roberts' study, called IFEX (Intensity Forecasting Experiment).

Ultimately, researchers said, improved computer modeling is a huge priority. All the new information on storm formation can be used to make sure computers and forecasters are looking at the right data when they formulate predictions.

"It's very complex," said NCAR's Davis. "There's a tremendous amount of information available that they have to pick through. If we can say, 'This is the part that really matters,' they might be able to narrow that down." □

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<p>Publisher John Chemaly Sr.</p> <p>Managing Director John A. Chemaly Jr.</p> <p>General Manager Grace Mary Maduro</p>	<p>Editor -in-Chief Julia C. Renfro</p> <p>Contributing Editors Angela Muzenhofer Dilma Arends</p> <p>International Editor Richard Brooks</p> <p>Sales Team Elly Erasmus Marijke Croes Wendy Kelkboom</p> <p>Page Designer Dina Maria</p> <p>Advertising Coordinator Sandra Loefstop-Duarte aviso@bondia.com bondia.aruba@gmail.com</p>
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Caribbean Speed Printing N.V.
Weststraat #22
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Tel: (297) 582-7800
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EDUCATION REFORMS WILL HELP POOR KIDS GET BETTER TEACHERS

By Cynthia Tucker

WASHINGTON -- Living in Indonesia with her second husband, Ann Dunham Obama Soetoro couldn't afford a fancy private school for her son, Barack, but she made up for her lack of funds with discipline and dedication. Obama was only 9 years old when she supplemented his education with a U.S. correspondence course. "Five days a week, she came into my room at four in the morning, force-fed me

breakfast, and proceeded to teach me my English lessons for three hours before I left for school and she went to work," the president wrote in his memoir, "Dreams From My Father."

Obviously, her methods paid off. Her son won a scholarship to a private school in Hawaii, received his undergraduate degree from Columbia University and was selected the first black president of Harvard Law Review during his time there. His later career has also been noteworthy. Obama's mother, of course, was an unusual parent, with the perspective and the persistence to give her son whatever educational advantages she could. Most children from less affluent homes will need to rely on teachers with skill, patience and enthusiasm to boost their academic attainment.

That makes Obama's push to rid classrooms of bad teachers critically important. It's all the more so for poor students, whose parents lack the knowledge and connections to demand the best for their kids. Still, the president's Race to the Top program, which emphasizes teacher accountability as well as charter schools, has generated controversy, especially among the traditional education establishment. That's no great surprise since teachers' organizations see their main mission as protecting teachers rather than children.

More surprising were objections to the president's education reforms recently raised by several civil rights groups, including the National Urban League. While the groups claimed they were fighting for children of color, they were more likely fighting to protect the jobs of the educators -- teachers, principals, education administrators -- who fill their membership rosters. If the civil rights groups were worried about poor children, they'd back the reforms. Impoverished kids (black and brown children are

disproportionately poor) have more to gain from classroom accountability than anyone, as Obama reminded his audience in a speech to the convention of the National Urban League last week.

"Let me tell you, what's not working for black kids ... is the status quo," he said. "What's not working is what we've been doing for decades now." That includes allowing bad teachers to shuffle from one school to the next, often ending up in the poorest neighborhoods. As a consequence, children who are already academically challenged get stuck with teachers who are ill-equipped to help them succeed.

Let's face it: Teachers have an easier time of it with students from affluent homes, where well-educated parents pass on a respect for books, a grasp of basic arithmetic and a mastery of the finer points of the English language. It's no secret why the family income level is the best predictor of a kid's success in school.

But the best teachers have demonstrated success in teaching children no matter whether their homes are affluent or impoverished, book-filled or broken down, disciplined or dysfunctional. Former President George W. Bush's "No Child" policy is unwieldy and unworkable, but his memorable phrase challenging the "soft bigotry of low expectations" was dead-on.

All over the country, schools outside the traditional public school establishment are succeeding in teaching kids from impoverished circumstances.

Those schools include the ones in Harlem's Children's Zone, the SEED School of Washington, D.C., and Atlanta's Ron Clark Academy. The Teach for America corps -- dismissed by the education establishment as naive, ineffective do-gooders -- is also more effective than traditional teachers, according to a study by the Urban Institute that measured student exam performance. □

NO COMPARISON

By David M. Shribman

With the economy still in tatters, with White House officials speaking openly about the possibility of a Republican takeover of one or both houses of Congress, with the administration frustrated by the stalling of campaign-finance legislation in the Senate, and with the president's poll numbers at alarmingly low levels, the last thing Barack Obama needs is fresh doubts about the American role in Afghanistan nourished by mischievous and misleading analogies to the war in Vietnam.

But presidents seldom get what they wish, and so right now Obama is afflicted with both -- and both are perilous not only to the Democrats' prospects in the midterm congressional elections but also to the Obama presidency.

Seldom in the course of a single week do the moorings of a presidency shift so dramatically as they did last week, when the release of thousands of documents detailing the ways of war in Central Asia shook the White House -- and endangered the brittle consensus, both inside the executive mansion and out, that sent a surge of American troops to Afghanistan and that believes the improvised, crude coalition engaged in battle there can prevent catastrophe, if not exactly prevail.

For a force that moved like an earthquake through capital and country, the AfPak archive produced unusual agreement: The documents didn't tell us much we didn't know. The documents didn't tell us much that comforted us. The documents changed everything.

All that and one thing more: Pakistan sure challenges the meaning of the word "ally." It doesn't matter that many of the documents released by WikiLeaks detail events that occurred during the George W. Bush administration, not the Obama administration -- just as it didn't matter that

all the events detailed in the Pentagon Papers occurred during the Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson administrations. That mess redounded to the Richard Nixon administration, which took office two years after the end of the period covered by the Pentagon Papers.

The difficulty for the Obama war ministry is that the WikiLeaks papers outline troubling ties between the Taliban and Tehran that will unsettle Americans already worried about Iran and nuclear weapons, problems with drones that will heighten concern about military tactics in the region, attacks on civilians that war critics will almost certainly describe as atrocities, and examples of double-dealing by Pakistan that will concern everybody. Very few people, if any, have read all 75,000 documents posted online, but we await the appearance of, say, 1 percent of those documents that will comfort rather than distress American military strategists. While these papers didn't tell us anything new, they did something potentially more damaging. They sowed new doubts among the American people about the American course.

Last week's episode included two of the important elements of the Vietnam era: leaked historical documents and a frustrating war in a faraway place in Asia. But just as Vietnam provided a convenient but inaccurate comparison for the war in Iraq, Vietnam provides a convenient but inaccurate comparison for the war in Afghanistan.

We have learned in the past three-quarters of a century to be wary of appeasement (the lesson of Munich) and to be wary of quagmires (the lesson of Vietnam) but not the more important lesson, which is to be wary of lessons.

Appeasement so marked, and so warped, American policy makers in the post-World War II period that it was a major factor behind the growing commitment to Vietnam. □

Esposa de agente cubano pide a EEUU que tenga un “gesto” y lo libere

LA HABANA (AP) - La esposa de uno de los cinco agentes cubanos enviados a infiltrar grupos anticastristas en Florida y que están presos en Estados Unidos, pidió que las autoridades de ese país los deje en libertad en correspondencia con la excarcelación de disidentes que la isla puso en marcha recientemente.

Adriana Pérez, casada con Gerardo Hernández, llegó el domingo como invitada a una sesión plenaria de la Asamblea del Poder Popular (el parlamento) cuya apertura se realizó con una declaración de solidaridad de los diputados encabezada por el presidente Raúl Castro. En la sesión no estuvo presente el líder Fidel Castro.

Los legisladores responsabilizaron a las

autoridades norteamericanas por la salud de Hernández, de 45 años, quien supuestamente permanece bajo régimen de aislamiento en la prisión de Victorville, California, y a quien no se le permitió recibir visitas y se le dificulta las entrevistas de sus abogados.

Cuando el jueves se denunció la supuesta situación del reo, AP intentó comunicarse con las autoridades de la prisión para pedir información, pero las llamadas no fueron respondidas. Hasta ahora no ha habido un pronunciamiento oficial al respecto.

“El gesto está allí, Cuba ha liberado a esos presos”, expresó Pérez. “Hablo en nombre de la familia y por supuesto el pueblo de Cuba vería muy bien un gesto de parte del gobierno de Estados



Miembros del consejo de estado asisten a una Asamblea del Poder Popular en La Habana Cuba. De izquierda a derecha aparecen el presidente de Cuba Raúl Castro, y los vicepresidentes José Ramón Machaado Ventura, Abelardo Colome, Esteban Lazo y Ramiro Valdez. (AP Foto/Javier Galeano)

Unidos, nuestros dirigentes lo han expresado también... no hay duda de que para

nuestro pueblo y para nuestro gobierno la prioridad es la liberación de ‘los cinco’,

agregó la mujer, quien aclaró que sus palabras no son una posición oficial. □

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